

Bucks County

JULY \* 1971 \* 35¢

# PANORAMA



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BACK HOME TO NEWTOWN

BUCKS COUNTY LEATHER  
THE BATTLE OF FORT WILSON





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# Bucks County PANORAMA

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## COVER:

Reading of the Declaration of Independence to Philadelphians in Independence Courtyard — July 1776. (Courtesy of College Watercolor Group)

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission

JULY, 1971

- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", Daily 9 to 5, at ½ hour intervals. Memorial Building.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson-Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to public Weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat. 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- 1 - 31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 FALLSINGTON — Burges-Lippincott House, 18th Century Architecture. Open to the public Wed. thru Sun., including holidays, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50 cents, students 25 cents, children under 12 free if accompanied by an adult.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe St., Victorian decor. Hours: Tues., Thurs., and Sat. 1 - 3 p.m., other times by appointment.
- 1 - 31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission: 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Streets. Hours: Sun. 1 to 5 p.m., Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETY — Tues. thru Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wed. 1 to 2 p.m. Admission — Adults: \$1 and children under 12 — 50 cents.

(continued on page 13)





by Sheila W. Martin

JAMES WILSON

## THE BATTLE OF FORT WILSON

Most of the battles fought during the Revolutionary War are well known to Americans. There is one battle, however, which occurred in 1779 in the heart of the city of Philadelphia, a battle that few people have heard of. It lasted only a few hours; its importance was because of the men involved.

Picture if you can the attackers of Fort Wilson — Philadelphia militia men — and more amazing yet, the defenders, among whom were generals, statesmen, merchants and three signers of the Declaration of Independence!

If the name, Fort Wilson, is not at all familiar, that is understandable for it was the house of James Wilson that was attacked, thus the name "Fort Wilson". The events that led up to this attack are of interest for they explain the happening.

James Wilson, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Scotland in 1742, the son of a farmer. He was well educated at college there and came to America in 1765 where his first job was as a Latin tutor at the University of Pennsylvania. He studied law under John Dickinson for a year and then moved to Carlisle, Pa., to practice.

Romance entered Wilson's life and he fell in love with Rachel Bird, daughter of the great ironmaster, William Bird of Birdsboro, who made cannon balls for George Washington at Valley Forge. He married Rachel in 1771.

As many lawyers do, James Wilson became active in the politics of his time. He was elected as a delegate to the Provincial Conventions from 1772 to 1775 where he gave a fiery speech on the justice of the colonial cause and the wrongs of England toward her colonies. He was a member of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Second Continental Congress in 1775 and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence when he was 33 which made him the second youngest signer.

The Wilson family moved from Carlisle to Philadelphia in 1778. The family now included Polly, six, Billy, two and one half, and a baby boy, Bird. The Wilson house, a large and imposing brick building, was located at the south-west corner of Third and Walnut Streets. The house was three stories tall plus an attic and had a copper roof. It sat back a little from the street and commanded a view of Walnut Street as far as Dock Street, and down Third to beyond Pear Street. This would be important to James Wilson the very next year although he had no idea of this.

Wilson was no longer in the Continental Congress so he devoted his time to his law practice, business investments, and a little politics. He belonged to the Republican Party who were opposed by the Whigs. A small faction of the Whigs formed a group called the Furious Whigs which was a very apt name for them.



They were furious at the Tories; they were furious at Robert Morris and his merchant friends for not abiding by price controls; they were especially furious at James Wilson because he opposed the ill-advised Pennsylvania State Constitution of 1776 and because, as a lawyer, he had defended some Tories in court.

The two men that Wilson defended were both Quakers; John Roberts, a miller, and Abraham Carlisle, a carpenter. They were sentenced to be hanged by the Executive Council in spite of the appeals of thousands of people for mercy, among them Chief Justice McKean, General Joseph Reed, and Bishop William White. The sentence was carried out on November 4, 1778.

On the morning of October 4, 1779, the city of Philadelphia was plastered with notices which called for James Wilson, Robert Morris and others to leave the city. A handbill was passed around telling the militia to collect on the Commons "to drive off from the city all disaffected persons and those who supported them."

The militia who were in full sympathy with the views of the Furious Whigs quickly answered the call to assemble. They met at Burns' Tavern on 10th Street between Race and Vine Streets where the liquid refreshment only increased their anger and their desire to get back at the people they held responsible for the high prices and all their other grievances.

They sent for some of the more prominent Whigs to help direct their campaign. One of these men was Charles Willson Peale, a leader of the Whigs as well as a famous portrait painter. Peale painted most of the famous men of the Revolutionary War period including many pictures of George Washington. The aroused militiamen paid no attention when Peale and other responsible men tried to persuade them not to persecute Tories and men like Morris and Wilson.

This advice was ignored for as two militia officers, Bonham and Pickering, read a long list of wrongs, the mob yelled in response, "Get Wilson." Peale realized the potential danger of the situation and headed for President Joseph Reed's house to get help. Just then the noisy, shouting militiamen spilled out of the tavern and with drums beating, set off toward the house of James Wilson.

Of course, in the meantime, James Wilson had not been idle. He had read his name in the posters; he realized his life was in danger. He appealed to the Assembly for protection but they referred him to the President. Not really expecting much help, Wilson decided to rely on his friends and gathered a group of loyal companions together to help him fight off the

militia. He sent his wife, who was expecting their fourth child very soon, and his other children to safety at the house of Robert Morris.

So about thirty men joined Wilson at the City Tavern at Second and Walnut Streets which was only one block from Wilson's home. The group included quite a few military men — Col. Stephen Chambers, General William Thompson, Capt. Campbell, a one-armed veteran of the Continental Army, General Nichols, and General Thomas Mifflin. Several politicians were present, notably Robert Morris and George Clymer, both Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Under the expert direction of General Mifflin the men marched and counter-marched out on Walnut Street. Suddenly the word came that the militia were on the way. They were reported to be heading directly for Wilson's house at 3rd and Walnut.

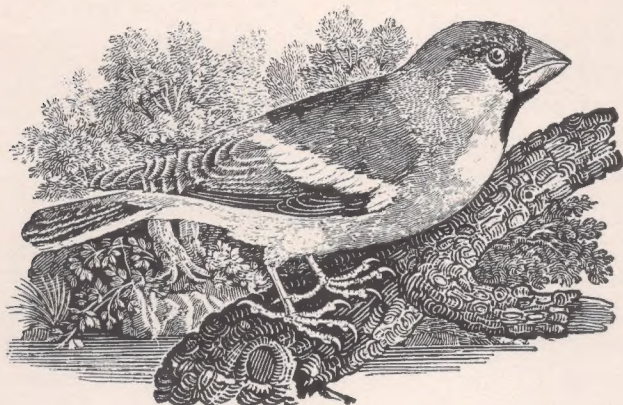
Quickly the brave defenders of "Fort Wilson" went inside the house and barricaded the doors and windows. Someone noticed that there was little or no ammunition for their muskets and pistols. General Nichols and Daniel Clymer frantically ran to Carpenter's Hall nearby where the Arsenal was located. They filled their pockets full of cartridges and hurried back to Fort Wilson just in time.

The mob of militia, some 200 strong, followed by a band of curious citizens, finally reached the Wilson home. Shortly before this, two Continental officers, Colonel Grayson and Captain Allen McLane had tried to stop them but were surrounded by the angry militia and forced to go with them as hostages. When the mob reached Fort Wilson they raised three cheers. Capt. Campbell called out of a third story window for them to move on but they jeered at him. He fired at them angrily; a shot rang out; and Campbell was killed. The battle of Fort Wilson had begun!

General Mifflin recognized the two Continental officers, McLane and Grayson, who were caught in the crossfire. He opened the back door of the house and let them in. Meanwhile the militia were regrouping for a new assault. Some went to get a cannon to fire on Fort Wilson while others went for crowbars and hammers to break down the doors. General Mifflin yelled out of a window facing Third Street to the militia, ordering them to disperse. The response was a bullet that smashed the window sash above his head. He fired back with both pistols. Just then the militiamen came back with iron bars and large hammers and quickly battered in the door on Third Street. As they entered Fort Wilson, shots came from the stairs and several men fell wounded.

*(continued on page 12)*





## STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS

by Eileen Wilson



We became bird watchers because of our cellar. We have a 250 year old cellar that only an historic buff could love, so washer, dryer, and freezer must squeeze themselves into the kitchen, leaving no room at all for a kitchen table. So we eat all of our meals in the dining room which happens to face out on our very own private section of Bucks County. Before bird feeders, the birds came and sat in our trees and bushes and watched us eat. So what could we do but throw them a few crumbs? Then we began actively feeding our new friends and now we have hundreds of regulars.

I try not to play favorites but no matter how often I see them, the Cardinals always give me a thrill. They seem a bit more timid than the other birds, and I have noticed that the males are very considerate of their mates and will sit and wait while the female has her fill of seeds. The color of the male is outstanding in its red brilliance, but if you look closely at the female she is every bit as beautiful with her brownish olive coloring and her bright orange bill.

We are very proud of "our" Cardinals, but I fear that "our" Cardinals also frequent our neighbors' feeders and our neighbors believe that "our"

Cardinals are "their" Cardinals. The rivalry keeps our feeders full for fear "our" Cardinals will one day leave us forever.

Although I love the beauty of the Cardinal, and I also admire his quiet, polite personality, there's a part of me that is just mad for the Bluejay. The Jay comes charging in noisily and is sassy and fresh and exuberant, and even with his brashness, I just love his spirit and enthusiasm. He reminds me of my husband.

The Sparrows really have me puzzled. With my handy little book I have begun many a day sitting on the radiator, trying to separate a Fox Sparrow from a Song Sparrow from a Field Sparrow. If they would only sit still for a moment, but they come in droves and keep hopping and scrapping. I have almost given up the fight and am about to call every one of them just a Sparrow, but the truth is that Sparrow is a very large classification and any bird watcher worth his seed should know the difference.

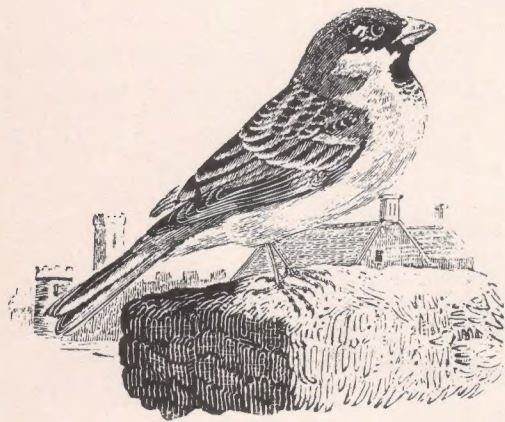
The Tufted Titmouse is a neat, quick little bird with pointed head who adores sunflower seeds. He will take one seed from the feeder and retire to a nearby branch or bush where he will proceed to attack the seed with vigor. The Junco and the



Black-capped Chickadee are also delighted with sunflower seeds although I am amazed that such small birds can manage such a large seed.

We also have the Rufous-sided Towhee who keeps busy scratching the ground with both feet at once. Clever. I'm not too certain of the intelligence of the Mocking Bird for invariably he is the specie who tries to fly through the window, and last Christmas one sat just outside the window, looking yearningly at our brightly ornamented tree.

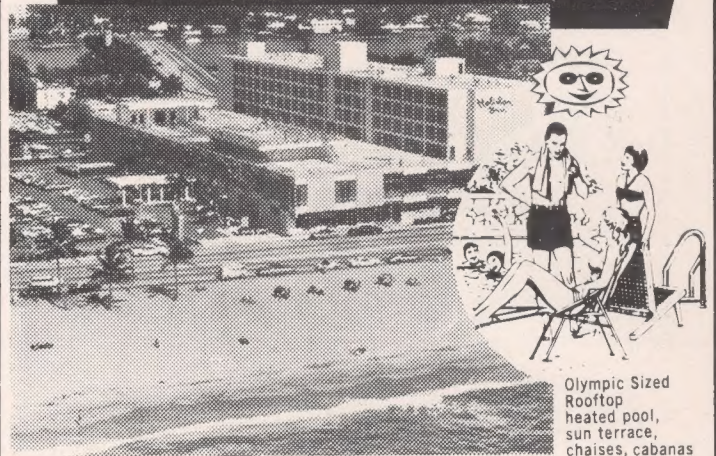
We had three Evening Grosbeaks last year who came every day for about a week and then vanished from our parts. I often wonder if I shall see them again and where they were heading. The male was startling to see because of his bright yellow mask. Other regulars are the Doves who come and sit lazily in the sun, and the Downy Woodpeckers who come solely for the suet.



The squirrels do not play fair and can clean out a bird feeder in a few minutes — even while hanging upside down by their tails. All autumn they squirreledl away food and whether or not they have legitimate reason (perhaps they have forgotten where they have put their supply), they are hogging the bird seed. Sometimes I wonder why the birds do not attack the squirrels and drive them off the feeder, but they patiently wait until the squirrels are finished or eat what the squirrels are knocking to the ground.

Long about dusk when the smaller birds are retiring for the night, the pheasants troop out to see what has been knocked to the ground from the feeder. Some nights we will see twenty and thirty pheasants, and I shall never forget the first winter here. The ground was covered with snow providing a contrast to the shape of the pheasants and as we ran from window to window we counted at least seventy birds. They came marching towards the house like armies, and then quickly it was too dark to see. My friends think it is lonely in the country.

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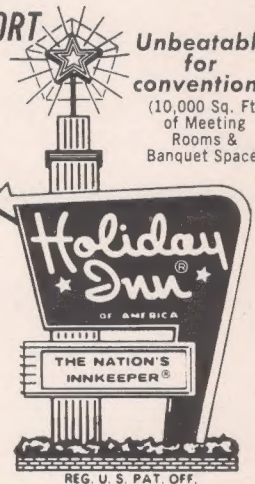
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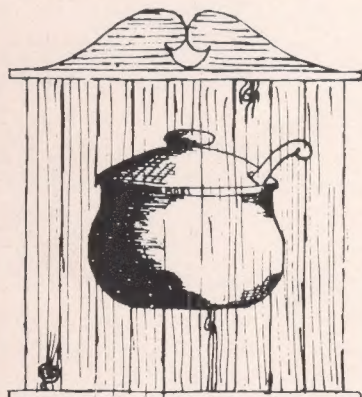
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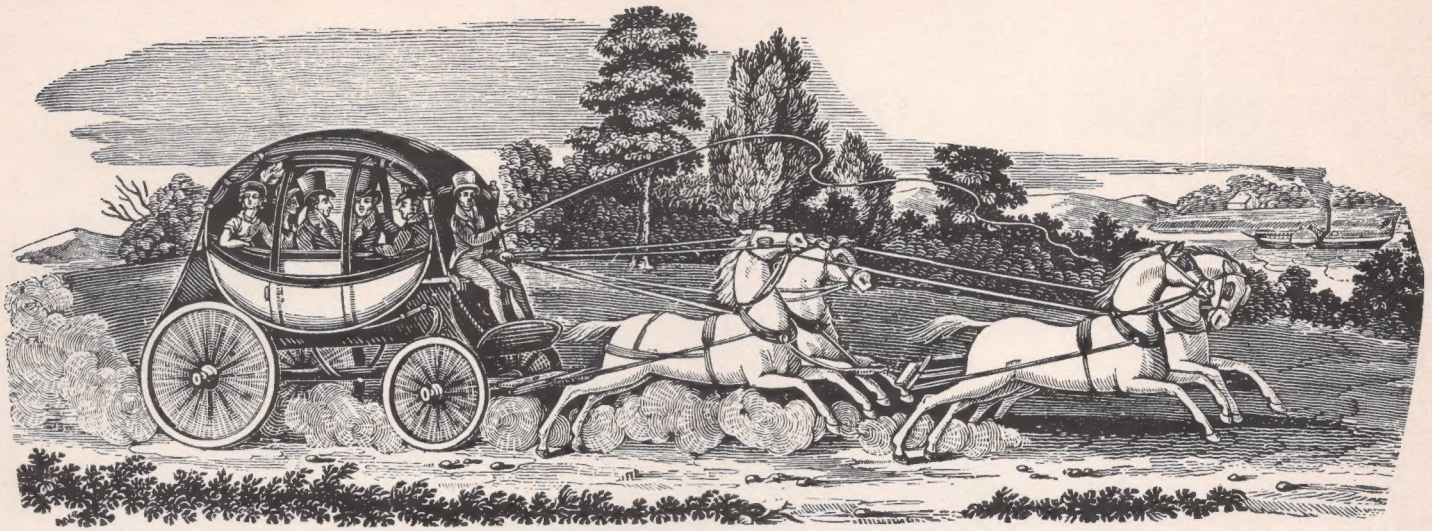
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## from here to there

by Mildred Johnson

No matter what season of the year is upon us, the American people zoom up and down, in town and out. Our ancestors managed to get from place to place, starting out with one reliable method — walking.

The early settlers strove to build their homes on riverbanks or near bays, paddling silently up and down in canoes. Narrow footpaths stretched through the deep woods, while rude bridges made from fallen logs, arched over swift streams. In 1631, Governor Endicott wrote to Governor Winthrop, "I am not strong enough to wade across the fords from Salem to Boston to visit you. Might I be carried pick-aback by an Indian guide?"

First the Indians and then the pioneers cut paths through the forests by blazing trees for guideposts. Often slender tree branches were folded and fastened down, afterwards growing into odd shapes along the trail. Some of these pointers may be seen in the woods of Bucks County, and as far west as the ravines north of Chicago.

In Maryland and Virginia rolling-roads made the scene. These were wide enough for hogheads of tobacco to be drawn or rolled or pulled along. In 1639, the first Massachusetts ferry from Charlestown to Boston began its trip, carrying passengers for threepence. Sometimes a carriage had to be taken apart and towed over separately, while the poor horses suffered their forefeet to be affixed to one canoe, the hind feet to another, the two boats lashed firmly together. How happy the animals were when they finally reached shore!

Horseback riding was popular throughout all the colonies. Boston celebrated by beating the rest of the nation with the introduction of private coaches, the women and children getting to ride. Ride-and-tie method came into being, worked out by four men changing places, two walking alongside the coach, two mounted, then exchanging places. Stones were set every mile on the principal roads, many marking out the distance from Doylestown to Philadelphia. Ben Franklin rode in a chaise with a cyclometer (which he invented) pulling a cart. When he clocked off a mile, he dismounted and dropped a heavy stone on the spot, which was set firmly into place by his helpers.

Freight was carried by wagons pulled by packhorses. An old inventory of provisions states: six pound loaf sugar; one lb. green tea; chest of white biscuits; two gal. spirits; one cheese; 20 lbs of best butter.

Pounding down the Pennsylvania roads, these packhorses sported gay belled collars, the wagons begin heaped with furs, vegetables and fruit. Returning from Philadelphia they were laden with salt, nails, tea and even pewter plates. Two men could manage fifteen horses. One fair day, 5000 horses could be seen pulling wagons leaving Carlisle, going westward on the 1792 constructed Lancaster Pike.

During the Revolution, all such wagons were commandeered by the Continental Army.

Next to come to the fore in the transportation line was the prairie-schooner or Conestoga Wagon, painted bright blue, with red sideboards, and curved bottoms.



Above wooden bows stretched white hemp covers, making them look like sailing ships! The finely matched horses could number seven, and were decked out in skins trimmed with swinging fringe, bells tied to heads with colored ribbons, and costly harness. The driver, or drover, flourished his bullwhip, and the whole contraption started off with a dash. At one time, 10,000 such vehicles ran from Philadelphia winding their way westward through the mountain ranges.

The first stage running from Philadelphia to New York City was named "The flying-machine on springs" and took two days in good weather. President Quincy of Harvard wrote, "we reached our resting place at three the next morning. Roads so bad, we sometimes were forced to get out to help lift the coach out of a monstrous rut to the detriment of my velvet waistcoat."



The only bright spot in all this travel hardship was the tavern. One turnpike sported 65 of them in a 60 mile stretch. In Pennsylvania an inn was called an 'ordinary' in spite of the extraordinary flowing ale and the bountiful food.

The middle of the 17th century saw the beginning of some gradual improvement in the condition of the roads. The use of coaches declined, although in the far west they still bumped along through the dust and sagebrush.

Trains made their snorty appearance, and began slicing the nation into accessible sections, opening up the entire land.

The wheel graduated from carts, wagons and coaches to speed — that wonderful new invention — the machine, the automobile. Airplanes shakily rose and fell and rose again into the blue sky.

Today, we do not have to sit tight in the bottom of a leaky canoe. We do not have to bump over rutted roads in a dirty wagon, or pull coaches out of the mire. From 1620 to 1971 the transportation picture has been one long hop and a big jump. But should all else fail, we could still revert to two things to get us from here to there — our two good legs!



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(WILSON - cont. from page 5)

However, their companions ran up the stairs and pulled down the man who had fired the shots, Col. Chambers, and wounded him badly with bayonets. They fired once more through the smoke-filled hall and fled outside.

Luckily before the attackers could get the cannon into place, help arrived. It was the cavalry to the rescue, just like in the movies. The First City Troop of Light Horse had been ordered to Fort Wilson by President Reed. Reed himself dashed down Third Street ahead of the horsemen with his clothes half on, his boots unlaced, and waving a pistol in his hand. Right behind him rode two mounted dragoons from Col. Baylor's Continental Horse with drawn swords.

At this awe inspiring sight the mob yelled in surprise and fear, "The Horse! The Horse!" and immediately ran in all directions. The cavalry was able to seize 27 of the stragglers and threw them into the jail behind the State House. The injured of both sides were put in a nearby house to wait for a doctor.

Rumors and sullen militia were all over the city the next morning. The rumors were that the Germantown militia were preparing to march on Philadelphia to release the 27 prisoners.

It was obvious that the defenders of Fort Wilson really were not safe in Philadelphia. James Wilson did not want to leave but finally did at the persuasion of his friends. He hid at the country home of Robert Morris who sent messages to Wilson through Morris' Negro slave James. Wilson hid for two weeks, all the time wishing he were back in Philadelphia.

He came back on October 19 right after President Reed had issued an order that both the rioters and the defenders must post bail. Things eventually calmed down and in March of 1780 the Executive Council passed an act of pardon to all concerned.

James Wilson went on to serve his country in other ways. He was a Congressman, advocate-general for the French government, and was appointed as an Associate Justice to the first Supreme Court by President George Washington.

Not content with all this activity, Wilson also built a big fortune through land speculation and industrial ventures. Unfortunately the Depression of 1797 wrecked him, and he died, a fugitive from debtor's prison, in Edenton, North Carolina, in 1798. He was buried there but in 1907, his remains were re-interred in the graveyard of historic Christ Church in Philadelphia. It seems fitting that the main figure in the battle of "Fort Wilson" should rest close to the scene of one of the strangest battles of the Revolutionary War.





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(CALENDAR cont. from page 3)

- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Swamp Road (Route 313) north of Court Street. Sun. Noon to 5 p.m., and Wed. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1 adults, Children 25 cents. Group rates.
- 1 - 31 NEW HOPE — Mule-drawn Barge rides, daily except Monday. "See Canal Life as it was 125 years ago." Hours 1, 3, 4:30 and 6 p.m.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road. Guided Tours — Sunday 2 p.m., Other tours upon request by reservations. Phone 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Parking. Brochure available.
- 1 - 31 TELFORD — Lockwood Galleries, 345 Church Road. Paintings, Sculpture, pottery and weaving exhibits. Hours: Evenings 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1 - 31 CHURCHVILLE — The Outdoor Education Center, Churchville County Park. Open daily 9 to 5 p.m., Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. Family Nature Programs Sunday 2 p.m.
- 1 - 31 NEW HOPE — New Hope and Ivyland Railroad, scenic trips through Bucks County on vintage train, 14 mile round trip. Weekends and daily.
- 1 - 31 ERWINNA — Stover-Meyers Mill, River Road. Open weekends only, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission - 50 cents adults and 25 cents children under 12. (\$1.00 for families.)
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — The Paddlewheel Queen will be operating from the Wharf at the end of Mill St. Weekends only until June 15. After June 15th, daily and Sun. For schedule and information call 355-6102.
- 1 - 31 HAGERSVILLE — 15th Annual Exhibition at the Meierhans Art Gallery, Old Bethlehem Rd. Open every day from 1 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 ERWINNA — John Stover House in Tinicum Township — Open weekends only 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children under 12 or \$1 for families.
- 1 - 31 DURHAM — Durham Mill open weekends only, crafts for display and for sale. See Mill in operation and watch a slide program.
- 3 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Adult Nature Hike, 2 to 3 p.m., Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Bldg.
- 3-4 ERWINNA — Stover Mill Exhibition, River Rd. (Rt. 32). Exhibition of paintings by Sheldon Moldoff.
- 4 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Adult Nature Hike, 2 to 3 p.m., Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Bldg.
- 4 UPPER BLACK EDDY — 4th Annual Horse Show held at Bonnie Brae Farm in Bridgeton Township, sponsored by U.B.E. Volunteer Fire Co. Starts 9 a.m.
- 4,11, 18,25 POINT PLEASANT — Outdoor Sunday Evening Services — 7 p.m. along banks of Delaware Canal. Parking nearby. In case of rain, indoors in Pt. Pleasant Community Baptist Church. Nursery for small children.
- 5 NEW HOPE — Peacefield Farms Horse Show, Meeting House Rd.

(continued on page 27)

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## IT'S CAMP

Camping means different things to different people. To the 8 year old, it's a back yard adventure, with a tent made out of an old army blanket; to a dedicated fisherman it's a week or two driving the endless beaches of Cape Cod looking for stripers and living in a jerry-built beach buggy. It can be anything from a man alone with knapsack and pipe, to an entire family; it can be a primitive commune with nature or an outdoor adventure with almost all the amenities of home.

Whatever kind of camping it is, there will be 25 million people doing it this year. Some hardy souls will attack the wilderness with little more than skill and a skillet. But, many more will be roughing it — smoothly.

Whole industries have grown up to cater to the campers. And, slyly, the manufacturer of outdoor equipment knows it's madame who has to be sold — the old man has been for it ever since his first overnight with the Boy Scouts.

The grizzled trailblazer who claims the best home away from home is the old miner's tent is talking to an ever-narrowing audience. The person who serves as wife, cook, housekeeper and mother of three, who has left her push-button kitchen and laundry room, isn't interested in proving her link with the female co-pilot of an 1859 Conestoga wagon. She says those earlier Americans were trying to make a better life for

those to follow. You might say she's tense about tents, morose over mosquitos, fearful of the forest.

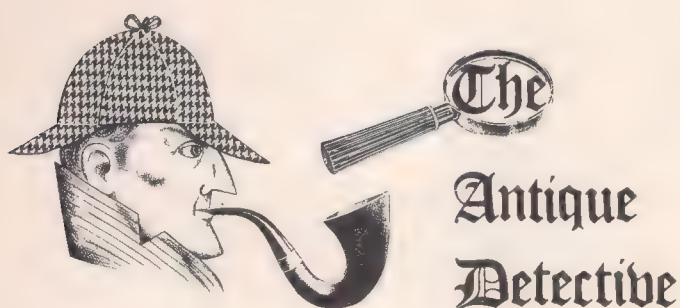
The industry has heard her loud and clear. She can now have air-conditioning in her camper, built-in ovens, showers, television and stereo. Traveling is done in style in trailers that seat eight for dinner, sleep eight comfortably, with color-co-ordination throughout. The kitchen has a high-fire range and sink, three burner stove, a 68-quart cooler with ice water tap and a door that opens either way plus panoramic picture windows, and more.

Of course, your pocketbook will tell you how much you want to spend. Most experts in the field suggest you rent before you buy and rentals are cheap. A family of five should be able to have two weeks in the clean air, living under the stars, for well under \$300, including everything.

Whatever type of rig you decide on, there are certain things you should be sure to carry, particularly if you're going to camp some distance from town. Bear in mind the three essentials of family camping: shelter, refrigeration, and means of cooking. The following list should be helpful: air mattresses and pillows, canned foods and canned milk, plastic or paper dishes, aluminum foil, bottle and can opener, flashlights and batteries, kerosene or gasoline lamp, plastic food bags, clothes line and pins,

*(continued on page 30)*





by Burt Chardak

You can make your own antique collectors' detective kit.

For a few dollars, round up a penknife, small flashlight, tape measure, magnet, screwdriver, magnifying glass and clock key. Put them all together in a small cloth or leather case and you're in business.

The penknife is to scratch off a little of the old paint on an old piece of furniture, say a green-painted table, to see what wood it's made of. A beatup looking washstand could be made of walnut or cherry — and you have a prize.

The flashlight is to look into bureaus, under tables and into drawers to see if the workmanship is old or if there have been any recent alterations.

The tape measure is handy to see if that settee or corner cupboard will fit into the room you have in mind. It will also tell you if a piece has been cut down or if a marriage has been made.

Comparing the size of the piece you are examining with the size of a similar known piece will disclose any hanky-panky. For example, seats of chairs normally are 16 to 18 inches high. Often old chairs are cut down to get rid of worn or broken feet. Table tops normally are 27 to 30 inches high.

High-poster beds have posts six to eight feet high. Anything else is a low-poster or a high poster that has been cut down due to damage.

The magnet. That's handy to test whether the metal under a nickel-plated tea pot is copper or iron. The copper ones look good with the nickel removed. The others don't. Also test bronze statues to see if they're really bronze or French white metal with a wash on them.

The screwdriver is useful, with the permission of the dealer or auctioneer, to remove a screw to see if it's an old one or not. The old ones usually have the slot off center and the turning is irregular. This can help date a piece.

(continued on page 28)

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- Apr. — *A Country Cooper*
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- July — *The Story of Summerseat*
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# Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

## SHARP AS A TACK AT 81

**SUCCESS STORY:** Very few automobile dealers can claim the distinction of having the famed Henry Ford visit "their back shop and talk with the mechanics," but my loyal friend Joseph J. (Joe) Conroy is one of them. A Doylestownian, Conroy put Bucks County on the auto map.

Sharp as a tack for his 81 years, the sprightly head of J. J. Conroy, Inc., Doylestown, was surrounded by dealer friends recently as the Philadelphia District Ford Dealers Association voted him Honorary Director for life and heard him tell of the history of the organization.

Interviewed recently at his delightful home, Joe told me "the gears don't shift quite as quick at my age," but the vigor in his voice belied the years as he talked of joining Ford in 1914 and becoming a dealer in Doylestown in 1919. This Rambler was one of his first customers.

"I sold six Model T's before I learned to drive one" said Conroy, "and the cars and trucks I've sold would reach bumper-to-bumper from Philadelphia to San Francisco."

Joe told me that he still gets a thrill remembering the day that he walked into his service shop in Doylestown and saw HENRY FORD standing there talking to his mechanics. He sort of "dropped by" while in the East on a business trip — and Conroy and the motor magnate talked quite a bit about his Fords and the business in general.

In discussing with Conroy about his activities recently, I was amazed to learn that he was responsible for the directing of over \$40,000,000 of the dealer advertising money.

Conroy's career as a Doylestown and Bucks County citizen is one that he can feel proud of, including that of serving as a Borough Councilman,



vice president of a well known bank, helping organize the Doylestown Rotary Club; of which he is the only living charter member in the club that was organized in 1924. This Rambler personally knows that Joe Conroy has been honored by many fraternities that have honored him with life memberships, such as the Maçons, Doylestown Moose, the Doylestown Country Club and others.

This Rambler will never forget the grand and exciting times Conroy, Thomas and others enjoyed playing golf on the numerous courses in the Philadelphia area when my press credentials as vice president of the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association entitled me to entertain my friends and golf pals nearly every Monday.

PANORAMA joins many others in wishing Joe Conroy many happy days upon his recent retirement.

\* \* \*

### THE YEAR 1935

**SPORTS:** Sports Writer Johnny Welsh (former Demo chairman of the Bucks County Commissioners, and one of the very best) wrote up a baseball game in the Doylestown Junior Legion League — Doylestown, 6; Langhorne, 2. In the Doylestown lineup were J. Wodock, Miller, Erwin, H. Wodock, Croman, Bricklemeyer, Schumn, Buckman, Griswold, Michener, Axenroth and Rogers. The Langhorne team members were McGrath, Klein, Hawk, Carter, Biedka, Stowe, McCahan, Gill, Foster and Simond.

**LEGION CONVENTION:** The A. R. Atkinson, Jr. Post No. 210, American Legion, Doylestown elected Post Commander Harmon Y. Cope and J. M. Deutscher as delegates to the Pennsylvania state convention (1935) to be held in Wilkes Barre. Alternates named were Past Commander Russell B. Gulick and Harry S. Hobensack.

**JOSEPH HAMBURGER** suffered multiple bruises and lacerations of the left hand when two bandits beat him up and stole \$125 in cash from his Sellersville roadside stand on the Bethlehem Pike, at 1 a.m. . . . 24 quarts of high priced whiskey, gin, candy and cigars were stolen from the Sellersville Moose Home, valued at \$500. The entry was discovered by Steward James Nase.

\* \* \*

**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** A large field competed in the annual July Fourth golf tournament at the Doylestown Country Club. The big prize of the day, the "John R. Andre Trophy" was won by District Attorney Arthur M. Eastburn, when he turned in a net 136 for the 36-hole event. Other scores recorded

(continued on page 21)



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# BUCKS COUNTY leather

by Sheila L.M. Broderick



That was the order issued by General John Armstrong, commanding officer of the Pennsylvania Militia, after he had established his camp at Matson's Ford on Dec. 14, 1777.

In setting up his army in this location, he made it mighty handy for his men to make raids into Bucks County and Montgomery County. Thus his followers were able to snatch up all stocks of leather hides and supplies from both counties, including those being smuggled to the port of Philadelphia. Apart from the heavy, coarse type of cloth worn by the militia in those days, leather was the main source of wearing apparel, head covering and shoe material.

Man has known how to dress the skins of animals, to preserve them, and make them soft and flexible for thousands of years.

The early cave men soon discovered that skins of the animals that they killed for food could be preserved and made into foot covering and clothing.

The Egyptians made leather so well that specimens which are more than 3,000 years old have been found in a state of almost perfect preservation. The Babylonians also made many things of leather. The Hebrews discovered a tanning process that is still in use today.

The Indian of North America made leather from deerskin by a process which other early peoples used. They piled their skins in packs so that the tissue surrounding the hair rotted off. They scraped the flesh from the inner side of the skin by hand. They tanned this leather by pounding oil and brains of

animals into the skins. They completed their process by smoking the deerskins. The leather was thus made soft, pliable and remarkably good. This was called buckskin.

All animal hides and skins can be tanned. Cattle hides are, and always have been, one of the most important raw materials for tanners. But the skins of deer, calves, sheep and goats are also tanned on a large scale. Other types of leather are provided by the skins of snakes and other reptiles such as the alligator and lizard. The skins of sharks are also tanned as are those of the ostrich.

No one set of rules applies to the process of tanning. A procedure that may answer the satisfaction of one tanner may prove entirely wrong for another. However, the method used by the tanners of 1777 in Bucks County are used today in many parts of this country.

There were a large number of small tanneries throughout Bucks in those war torn days, and they produced, without a doubt, the finest leather in the whole country.

A great many of those early tanners worked on the share-and-share-alike basis. Farmers would bring in their hides; the tanners, after making them into the best leather, would divide the goods between the two. In this manner it wasn't long before the tanner would accumulate a healthy stock of leather for himself. And, once a good wagon load had been produced, he'd cart it all away to the nearest army camp, shoemaker, harness-maker or to the port of



Philadelphia for quick sale.

The tanners never received any kind of scientific training, but inherited the traditional methods from those who passed it on.

In the early days of this country, every community in Bucks County had its tanner, as was only fitting for such a rich farming county. When the farm came into existence, the farmer fed, clothed and shod his family from within his own farm. In early winter when he killed his cow, calf or sheep he would carry the skins and pelts to the neighboring tanner. In this way he fitted the family with shoes, boots, skirts, jackets, hats, mittens, pouches and at times there was even enough leather left for a new harness, or at least to repair the old one.

Before a hide was carted off to the tanner, the tail, legs and ragged head were cut off as not worth tanning. These pieces were sold to any passing peddler, who in turn sold them as the makings of delightful, mouthwatering treats — such as brains, tongue and stewing parts.

The cowhides were then split straight down the back, making two identical "sides." Calfskins and sheepskins were tanned whole as were deer pelts.

Hair was removed from the hides by soaking them in vats of lime water which loosened the hair so that it would shed. This hair was then collected to use in mixing with plastering mortar.

After the hair was off, the hides were put in yet another vat to soak several days in a fragrant brew made up of chicken manure, salt, dog and pigeon dung. After the allotted time in this beauty bath, the hides were removed — by people wearing long, thick gloves, we trust — scrubbed hard and rinsed in pure running water.

Then the now soft hides were ready for their long stay in the tanning liquid made from a combination of leaves, barks, nuts and woods of hemlock, oak, chestnut, sumac, quebracho, and hot water.

Today tanning is done in large factories equipped with all kinds of machinery. Technical research and chemical science has now made it possible to convert a cow hide into finished leather in six to eight days.

But, talking to an old timer a while back, he complained to me, "Huh! they just don't have it any more. They rush it too much, just like everything else these days. For softness and lifelong strength, the new leathers don't come anywhere near the stuff of the old days."

Well, I can't speak for the old days — not that old any way! But I do know that the history books tell us that a whole army camped near by for that Bucks County leather.



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# BACK HOME TO NEWTOWN

by Arleen Carlin

Ordinarily the quickest way to get to Newtown is via Route 413 but it took Kingdon Swayne 25 years and thousands of miles to return to the town where he was born and reared.

Swayne was born on the George School campus where his father was a teacher and the master of the boys' dormitory. After graduating from George School, Swayne went on to Harvard where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. After Harvard, he was appointed to an executive position at the General Electric Co. in New York. Months later World War II broke out and he entered the infantry as a private.

Within a few years he was promoted to Captain and served with General Patton's forces in Europe. General Patton, he recalls, was an avid horseman and was very concerned about the safety of the beautiful Austrian white stallions who were under Nazi ownership.

"My job," Swayne said, "was to help free these horses. After seeing these magnificent animals perform years later, it was easy to understand why General Patton wanted to save them."

One day, late in the summer of 1945, a bulletin announcing the forthcoming foreign service entrance examination to be given in Paris came across his desk.

"I hadn't spent much time in Paris," he said, "and this sounded like a good excuse to return."

This was the beginning of a twenty-year career that was to take him from Toronto to Rangoon, from peasant to prince, from a tar-papered shack in a Japanese fishing village to the White House. For Swayne this was a career filled with all the excitement and adventure of a Hemingway novel.

His first assignment was the American Embassy in London where he served as Number 2 Special Assistant to Ambassador Lewis Douglas.



*Photo by Skip Ward*

"Most of my time was spent in processing visas for GI brides and European refugees who had come to England near the end of the war and were waiting to go to America," he said.

The London assignment was meant to be a preparatory as well as an indoctrination period. None of the other assignments were ever to be as easy as the first and the next assignment to Canton came in the wake of a crisis.

*(continued on page 26)*



(RUSS - cont. from page 17)

in this handicap tourney, according to ART DOPE's notebook were Tom Beane, 146; Don Bean, 157; Bon Engart, 149; Dr. Fred Lutz, 163; Russ Thomas, 155; Stan Haldeman, 149; Howard Gulick, 166; John Andre, 153; Ed Kirk, 155; Frank Ely, 156; Arch Lawder, 147; Carl Leidy, 149; Horace Redfield, 142; Arch Stewart, 145.

\* \* \*

**SPECTACULAR FIRE:** A fire of undetermined origin destroyed more than 1,000,000 feet of lumber at the plant of the North Penn Lumber and Supply Company at Fort Washington. Flames shot hundreds of feet in the air resulting in hige traffic jams. An estimated 50,000 spectators flocked to the scene. Traffic on the Bethlehem Pike was stalled for hours. Fire companies from Chestnut Hill, Jenkintown, Horsham, Lansdale, Ambler, Barren Hill, Edge Hill and Glenside responded.

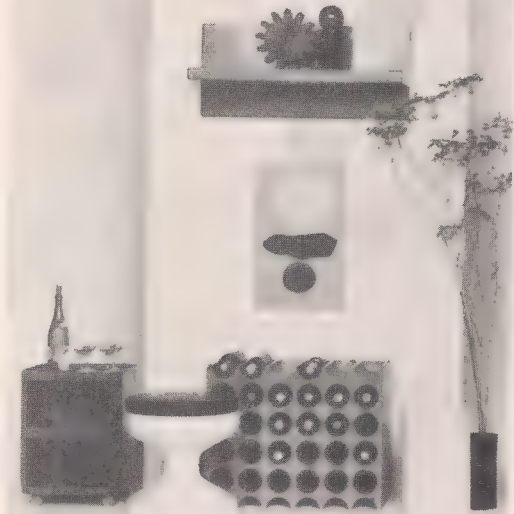
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**"SKUNK NITE" IN SELLERSVILLE:** The telephone rang in the news room where I worked, and a Sellersville policeman reported that eleven polecats had made their appearance on Sellersville's Main Street (July 12, 1935), giving passing motorists and natives a real thrill. Drivers stopped their cars and pedestrians stopped at a safe distance. But their fears were largely unfounded for 10 of the skunks were babies hardly able to climb up and down the curbs as they crossed the street. The mother skunk, I was informed, decided to move from the abode, located somewhere in the rear of Justice of the Peace Wilhelm's property. Accordingly she led her family of ten — first six and later four — across the street to the property of Ralph Schlichter. According to the theory of one old-timer, recent rains caused the mother to seek high and dryer ground for her litter.

\* \* \*

**PLAZA THEATRE:** Perkasio Fire Company at a special meeting accepted an offer of \$35,000 for the Plaza Theatre. The sale was conditioned upon satisfactory releases of films for the theatre by the distributing agencies . . . Dr. John B. Carrell, widely known Hatboro physician celebrated his 84th birthday with a family dinner at the Golden Glow Tea Room in Hatboro. Thirteen doctors and a Bucks county editor were among the guests . . . 100 summer bungalows were swept away in the Perkiomen Valley along the creek which rose 31 feet above normal. The rainfall in the Valley was 6.56 inches. Two Easton brothers, Frank and Joseph Zarela, 17 and 19, drowned in the flood.

\* \* \*



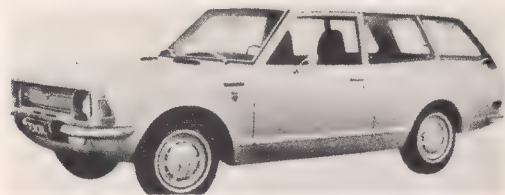
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## BETWEEN FRIENDS

by Sheila Martin



July — whose birthstone is the second hardest of gems, the ruby. It symbolizes glory in religious symbolism; it also stands for faithfulness. The month of July is important for it is then we celebrate our nation's independence. This month my older son celebrates his independence — becoming 21. We are proud of him and just a little bit proud of ourselves, that together we have reached this milestone without a generation gap or communications gap. It hasn't been easy but looking back, over 21 years, it's been an adventure we wouldn't exchange for anything.

\* \* \*

Two Bucks Countians were honored recently by the Southeastern Council of the Navy League for their dedicated service to the community. The two are Mrs. Anita Miller of Warminster, better known as the Weave-A-Tall-Tale-Lady for her stories at The Warminster Library and Norman Leventhal of Warrington who has served on many community service organizations.

\* \* \*

Ground was broken in June for Warminster's first hospital which will be located at Ann Lane and Newtown Road. R. H. Medical Services, Inc. which will own and operate the hospital expect it to be completed in the fall of 1972.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin White, Jr. of Furlong recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

\* \* \*

If you are looking for a wonderful place to visit with the family this month, go to the Kutztown Folk Festival which runs from July 3 through 10. I went last year with my children and we all had a grand time, with so many interesting exhibits and so much good Pennsylvania Dutch food to eat.

\* \* \*

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James C. Bowen of Sellersville is the newly elected president of the Bucks County Bar Association.

\* \* \*

A good deed was done by 26 Boy Scouts of Troop No. 137 of Warrington recently when they spent a day at Lake Towhee Park on conservation work as part of the Project SOAR (Save Our American Resources). They widened the horse trail, relocated the entrance to the foot trail, constructed a foot bridge, removed fallen trees, picked up litter and improved the interpretative nature trail.

\* \* \*

When you are visiting New Hope this summer, be sure to stop in at the Selective Eye at 2 West Bridge Street. They have the most imaginative selection of modern furnishings. You will surely agree after seeing it that everything in the store was most definitely chosen for your admiration by a very selective eye.

\* \* \*

The Bucks County Commissioners have announced a schedule of nine admission-free band concerts, to be presented by the county Department of Parks and Recreation during the upcoming summer season.

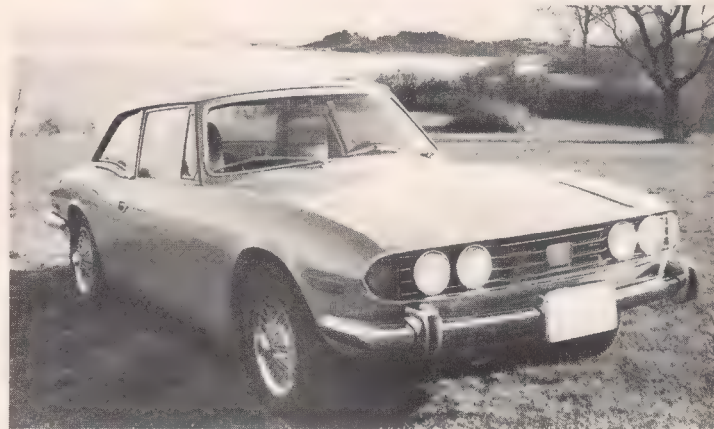
Following the initial concert in June, the Quakertown Band will present a different repertoire of selections at the Moravian Tile Works, Swamp



Road, Doylestown on July 11; Sunday, July 18, the Quakertown aggregation will present a concert at Tinicum Park, Erwinna; Saturday, July 24, the Tri-County Band will be heard at Silver Lake, Bristol; Saturday, July 31, Tom Darlington will be featured at the Shrine of Czestochowa, Ferry Rd., Doylestown; Sunday, August 8, the Quakertown Band will be at Lake Towhee, Applebachsville; Saturday, August 21, the Tri-County group will play at the Tile Works and on Saturday, August 28, the same band will play at Playwicki Park, Langhorne. On Saturday, August 14, and Saturday, September 11, concerts will be held at the Shrine, with the specific bands to be announced at a later date. Starting time for all band concerts, following the opener will be 7 p.m.

\* \* \*

## Stag. A new kind of Triumph



For years Triumph has been making fine sports cars for people who love cars. Now Triumph introduces a sports car which loves in return. To all the things that make a true sports car good to drive, the Stag adds all the things that make a car good to ride in. Stag adds power to Triumph's rack and pinion steering and front disc brakes. It combines more room and comfort with Triumph's road hugging, independent suspension. The engine is a big, smooth V-8, making the Stag the fastest car in the line. There's true 2 plus 2 seating, electric windows and a

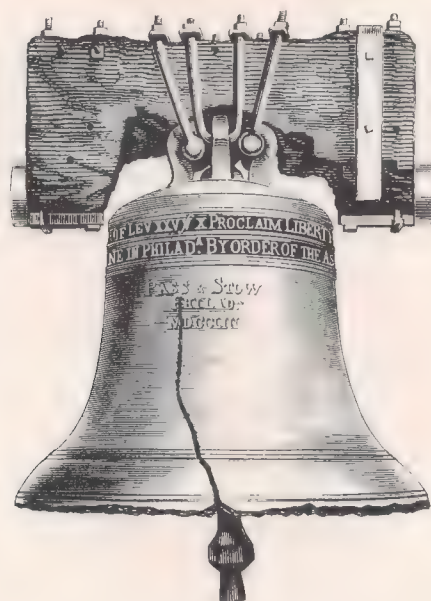
solid, padded roll bar, even when the top is down. Big, wide doors make it easy to get in and out, controls are in easy reach of your fingertips, and both the reclining bucket seats and the padded steering wheel are fully adjustable. The Stag is a new kind of Triumph, a powerful over-the-road car built by the biggest maker of sports cars in the world. Base price is \$5525, including chrome wire wheels and radial ply tires. Options include a detachable hard top with a heated rear window, automatic transmission and air conditioning.

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## THE LIBERTY BELL IN BUCKS COUNTY

A little settlement in Bucks County on what is now known as Route 309 at old Quakertown, was host to the Liberty Bell in 1777. An ancient stone building is said to have sheltered the bell when the train of 700 wagons moved bells and other valuables from Philadelphia before its occupation by the British.

The Zion Reformed Church in Allentown was the home of the Liberty Bell for the year following its journey through Bucks County, until it was deemed safe to return it to its place in the tower on Independence Hall. It remained there to ring for many years as a fire alarm, on election days, for funerals of notables. It rang jubilantly for the surrender of Cornwallis. It tolled for the death of George Washington. It greeted Jefferson as president. It tolled, also, the untimely death of Alexander Hamilton, killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. It welcomed Lafayette in 1824. It sounded the knell when Jefferson died.

In 1816, when the capitol was to be built in Harrisburg, the state, in order to raise money, ordered the sale of the State House and State House Square — only the clock in the tower was to be kept if it could be used in the capitol building. The bell

was to go along with the old timbers. Before this could be done, the City of Philadelphia bought the historic building for \$70,000 and set about a restoration of the tower.

About this time the bell had another narrow escape. A Mr. Wilbank contracted to make a new bell and take the old one in part payment, to be melted down. He was to have it ready for installation in the tower by July 4th, 1828. Not placing any value on the old bell, Wilbank did not take it, but after considerable trouble with the job, was paid \$2,157 by the city when he finally finished it in December.

About fifty years ago heirs of Mr. Wilbank tried to get possession of the Liberty Bell claiming their ancestor was never paid for his work, in that he didn't get the bell in his deal with the city. Charles S. Keyser, a lawyer and historian of that time, claimed that there were, at one time, two bells on the State House; the Liberty Bell in the tower that was sounded by a rope attached to the clapper, and the other, a smaller one which hung under a cover on the roof. It was rung by a hammer attached to the clock. Time had also outlawed any claim the Wilbank heirs might have had to a bell.



# BUCKS COUNTY PARKS - PART 1

Bucks County is 616 square miles, 40 miles long, 15 miles across at its widest point; has 54 municipal governments, 13 school districts and a population of about 423,000 by the 1970 census of which two thirds of the inhabitants are in the lower one-third of the county's land mass.

The Bucks County Park System was established by resolution of the County Commissioners in 1953. Its title is Department of Parks and Recreation to emphasize the national trend of merger and consolidation.

There are ten parks in the system to date encompassing approximately 4,800 acres; estimated value eight million dollars.

The Bucks County Park System is fostered and perpetuated with the regional concept in mind; serving a broad base of communities and needs while the local municipalities must service the neighborhood and individual community needs.

Each park has been conceived with some special and/or unique trait or traits in mind: open space, historical, natural resource, scenic, high intense use area, specialty use area, etc.

Bucks County is facing rapid growth and development in the lower regions of the county while the upper Bucks area is still experiencing the rural setting in all its serenity and splendor; however, time and speculation will change this setting soon enough.

A description of the various parks in the Bucks County Park System will give the reader some concept of planning and development going on in Bucks County.

## DURHAM MILL

The mill is found on a three acre tract located in Durham Township. At present the county has leased this property to a private individual who conducts tours through the old structure. The site has historic significance in the fact that ammunition for the Revolutionary War effort was fired in the Durham Furnaces. The furnace foundations still remain. Future plans evolve around possible restoration of this site.

## STOVER-MYERS MILL

This is a 25 acre tract found on Dark Hollow Road near Pipersville, also on the Tohickon Creek. The mill has recently been restored by the Department. It is open for tours on weekends from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This provides an excellent opportunity to see how a grist mill and saw mill operated in the 19th century — all parts are labeled for easy identification. A tour guide is on hand for your convenience and for interpretative purposes.



*Stover-Myers Mill*

## PRAHL'S ISLAND

An 88 acre undeveloped island in the Delaware River, this area is one mile north of Point Pleasant, Tinicum Township, on River Road. There are no facilities; however, it is primarily used as a fly-way for bird migration, for duck hunting and hunting area for other small game.

## PEACE VALLEY

This future park is three miles north of Doylestown off Route 313, just below New Galena Road in New Britain Township. It is one of two sites being planned and developed by the Neshaminy Water Resources Authority for three primary reasons: (1) Flood control, (2) Future water supply, and (3) Recreational use; active and passive. Funding for this 1,500 acre site that will have a 356 acre lake is coming from the Authority, Soil Conservation Service funds and the Pennsylvania Department of

*(continued on page 31)*



(NEWTOWN -cont. from page 20)

"When I got there," he said, "there was a vast backlog of Chinese people claiming they were American citizens and demanding to return to the United States."

The problem had initially begun seventy years earlier in the United States. The Union Pacific Railroad had imported thousands of Chinese men and women into the country to construct the railroad connecting the east and west. The children born to these men and women were American citizens. After the railroad was completed, they returned to China with their parents and started families of their own. The sons of these families automatically became American citizens. After the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in the 1880's, many of these second-generation American citizens sold their citizenships to other Chinese who would then try to obtain entry into the U. S.

"My job," Swayne stated, "was to separate the sheep from the goats. We found that out of these thousands of people claiming to be U. S. citizens, only 5-10% really were. Our task was to weed out the imposters and issue clearance to the legitimate citizens.

Blood tests were given and cross-matched with the parents. He also interviewed each member of the family (with the help of an interpreter) checking to see if stories matched and if they really seemed to be genuine families.

"The Canton job ended in August of 1949 when the Communists ran us out of the country," Swayne said.

From Canton he was sent to Laipei in Formosa where he stayed only a few months before being assigned to Hong Kong.

"In Hong Kong it was the same game again," he chuckled.

Since the Communists had cut the mainland off from the rest of the free world, the only outlet left was Hong Kong. It seemed that the same people he had left in Canton were waiting for him in Hong Kong. Thousands of people confronted him each day, demanding to be allowed into the United States.

Toronto was the next stop. Swayne spent one year in Toronto and couldn't get accustomed to being so far from the action. The only way out was to specialize in a foreign language. The State Department was offering a two-year course in Japanese so he decided to take advantage of the offer and returned to the states to study Japanese at Yale University. After a year at Yale, he and another officer were sent to live in a small fishing village

outside Tokyo. Here they were to submerge themselves in the life of the community and attempt to understand the customs of the Japanese people.

"The house we were living in," he said, "was not really big enough for all of us so I volunteered to take a room in the next village. My landlord turned out to be one of the leaders of the local fishermen's cooperative and proved to be very helpful to us during our stay in the village.

The Japanese are well known for their politeness and gracious courtesy. Their protocol, however, can sometimes be a puzzlement to the Westerner. For instance, Swayne remembers driving down a road one rainy night when he spotted a girl from the village walking along the muddy road. He stopped and gave her a hop into the village. He had almost forgotten the incident entirely till a few days later a young man appeared at his door. The young man introduced himself as the girl's brother. He worked in the city and this was the first day he had off since his sister told him about Swayne's giving her a ride. He wished to repay Swayne for his kindness to his sister by washing his car. When Swayne insisted no payment was necessary the young man was offended. Not wishing to create ill feelings, Swayne told him he could wash the car to which the young man smiled and set to work.

After the training was over, he was sent to Yokohama to serve as the "bridge" to Japan for other American foreign service personnel who were just coming to Japan. He was only in Yokohama six months when he was transferred to Tokyo where he became the professor in charge of the foreign service language school.

Perhaps the most significant assignment he had in Japan was in Supuro, site of the 1972 Olympics. Here he was the man who represented the 200 million people living on the island and their interests. His duties were to keep the State Department informed on what was going on in Northern Japan and to make speeches to various groups in Japanese. It was during this time that the Russians and the Japanese were disputing over fishing rights in the Bering Sea. He kept a close surveillance over these disputes and made regular reports on them to Washington.

For the next five years Swayne was assigned to Washington, D.C. While in the capital he served as the official escort of the Crown Prince and Princess of Japan during their visit to the United States in 1960. A while later, the Kennedy's gave a state dinner in honor of the visiting Prime Minister of Japan and his wife. Swayne was called upon to act as interpreter for

(continued on page 29)



## NATURAL LANDS

A ten-year-long effort to improve the ecology of the Delaware Valley through the setting aside and maintenance of natural lands was observed May 1 with the dedication of a new Field Headquarters for the Natural Lands Trust in Ambler, Pennsylvania.

Dedicated to the preservation of land tracts in their natural state, Natural Lands Trust was formed and functions through the combined efforts of the Philadelphia Conservationists and Girard Bank.

A large, beautifully restored barn was formally dedicated to serve both as a new central field office for the Trust as well as a Nature Study Center. The



building is located on 50 acres making up the the Four Mills Nature Reserve on Morris Road in Ambler.

The tract includes inviting paths for nature walks, and the Nature Study Center in the barn offers exhibits which portray and interpret for school children and other visitors the natural elements found along the nearby trails.

In its decade of activity, Natural Lands Trust has been responsible for saving many hundreds of acres of natural lands. These include wildlife habitats and other areas of ecological significance. Examples are woodlands, meadows, tidal marshes, ponds, creek banks and wooded hillsides.

Located in Southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the present Natural Lands Trust holdings include sites in the Wissahickon Creek area; Williston Township (Chester County); acreage in Montgomery and Bucks Counties; Fortescue, New Jersey; and a number of other locales in the region.

Donations of land for the Trust are made by individuals and groups interested in preserving a meaningful segment of our natural heritage in perpetuity. Monetary contributions to the endowment fund of the Trust permit the maintenance of the areas in their natural state.

(CALENDAR - cont. from page 13)

- 5 FEASTERVILLE — Independence Day Parade — 1 p.m.
- 10 ERWINNA — 23rd Annual Tinicum Arts Festival. All Day. Rain Date July 11, 1971. Held in Tinicum Park, Rte 32 — ½ mi. North of Mill. 1 to 9 p.m.
- 11 NEWTOWN — Horse Show at Lin-Del Acres Farm, Rte. 532. Benefit — Starts at 9 a.m.
- 11 DOYLESTOWN — The Quakertown Band will present a summer concert at Mercer Tile Works. 7 to 9 p.m. Free.
- 14 FEASTERVILLE — Tri-County Band will present a concert in Lower Southampton Township, Pine Tree Farms — 7 p.m.
- 15-17 BRISTOL — Street Fair, sponsored by Mill Street Businessmen's Association — Thurs. afternoon only, Fri. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



- Weekends ERWINNA — Stover Mill Exhibition, River Rd. (Rt. 32). Group Show, Selections from the Tinicum Art Festival, incl. Paintings, Sculpture and Prints.
- 17-Aug.1
- 18 LEVITTOWN — Tri-County Band presents a concert in the Cobalt Section, Middletown Township. 7 p.m.
- 18 ERWINNA — The Quakertown Band will present a concert at Tinicum Park.
- 18 MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP — Core Creek Park, Bucks County Park and Recreation Dept. sponsors a Home Run Derby for boys and girls 6 to 15, no charge and register on site from 1:30 p.m.
- 23 WASHINGTON CROSSING — An Evening Lecture — 8 p.m. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Headquarters Bldg.
- 24 LEVITTOWN — 14th Annual Soap Box Derby. Woodbourne Hill at Five Points. Starts at noon.
- 24 BRISTOL — Tri-County Band will present a concert at Silver Lake Park.
- 31 DOYLESTOWN — Tom Darlington will be featured in a concert at the Shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa.
- 1 - 31 NEW HOPE — Bucks County Playhouse presents "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," July 1-11; "Plaza Suite," July 13-25; for tickets and information, call 862-2041.
- NEW HOPE — Bucks County Playhouse presents Children's Musical Shows, Thurs. Mornings at 11 a.m. \$2. July 1, "Beauty and the Beast"; July 8, "Treasure Island"; July 15, "East of the Sun and West of the Moon"; July 22, "Rumpelstiltskin"; and July 29, "Robin Hood."





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(ANTIQUES - cont. from page 15)

The magnifying glass is useful for examining glass and china. With a little practice you can tell whether the scratches on the bottom were made to deceive or are from normal wear. On a valuable piece of glass, such as Sandwich glass, look for flatness or unevenness around the rim or feet. It may have been ground down to get rid of a chip or a flake. The glass also is good to look at the marks on pewter or silver that have been worn down over the years.

What about the clock key. When a clock has a broken main spring, it usually doesn't have a key handy to test it. If there's no tension when you wind, you know the spring is gone, and that's an expensive repair job.

Usually, the eye is its own detective in antique hunting. Here are some rudimentary hints:

In a drop-leaf table, do not be frightened off by a slight curl in the leaves. This is a sign of age and a proof of genuineness. The longer the leaf, the more distinct the curl and the more valuable the table. A straight edge across the top of a leaf will show a variation of as much as a quarter inch. Sometimes a cabinet-maker will saw a leaf in half and re-glue it to get rid of the curl. This lowers the value of the piece.

Look at the backside of drawer fronts for pegged or filled holes. This is an indication the hardware isn't original and that new holes were bored to accommodate the replacements.

Look for scribe marks along the dovetailing or where a hinge is set in. The old cabinetmakers used a scribe and scratch awl.

Another sign of old work is the jackplane marks in the back of a piece or the underside drawers. Look for a series of slight ridges and hollow grooves. Also look for beveling along the sides of the drawer bottom to reduce the thickness of the wood where it fits into the slot.

Old saw marks are straight and parallel. A power-driven saw was used from before the Civil War on and can be spotted by the circular and concentric marks. They appear on Empire and Victorian pieces.

Nails are another clue. Round-headed ones usually indicate the piece was made or made over after 1890 or thereabouts. Look for square-headed nails.





(NEWTOWN - cont. from page 26)

the Prime Minister and Mrs. Kennedy. A broad smile comes over his handsome face when he recalls that night.

"It was the first time President and Mrs. Eisenhower had visited the White House since President Kennedy took office. We were seated around the table when the Japanese Prime Minister remarked to Mrs. Eisenhower how well her husband looked. Mrs. Eisenhower answered, 'Yes, he does look well, doesn't he? Knock wood,' and with that she began to search all over the room for something made of wood. I knew the Prime Minister was puzzled by what Mrs. Eisenhower was doing and for a few moments I couldn't think of one possible explanation. Finally, I told the Prime Minister that this was an expression one uses when one is pleased with a condition and wishes it to continue," Swayne said.

Out of the ten different assignments in his twenty years with the foreign service the last assignment, Rangoon, Burma, was the most disappointing. Disappointing because the Burmese government was not interested in having good relations with the United States and this made the American diplomat's job frustrating, to say the least.

In 1966 he retired from the foreign service and entered Lehigh University where he received his master's degree in government one year later.

"I went to Lehigh to get my master's degree with the intention of coming back to Newtown to teach at the Bucks County Community College," he said.

"The idea of running for mayor didn't come until much later. In fact, he added, it really wasn't my idea at all. Martin Sutton (a teaching associate) got himself elected committeeman of the second ward and decided the Democrats needed a candidate for mayor. The next thing I knew I was accepting the candidacy and before it was all over, I was the mayor of Newtown."

Swayne, a bachelor, lives with his mother in a four-unit apartment house on Centre Street. In his spare time — what little there is of it — he manages to get in a few rounds of golf and a game or two of bridge. He is an associate professor of political science at the community college and conducts workshops on government during the evenings and weekends.

Ordinarily the days of one's retirement are spent in peaceful relaxation but Kingdon Swayne is more active in his "retirement" than most of us are in the days of our youth. Is it any wonder that such a man could become the first Democratic mayor of Newtown?

## IMAGINATIONS

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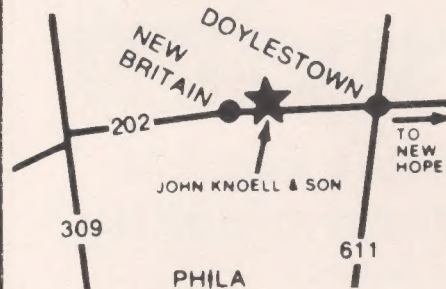
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(CAMP - cont. from page 14)

scissors, needle and thread, Handi Wipes, spices, salt and pepper, five gallon can of gasoline, toilet tissue and articles, hammer and nails, hatchet, iridescent plastic tape, laundry bag, cups, insect repellant, a broom, and an inexpensive recipe book.

If your camper doesn't have built in beds, the mattresses and pillows are ideal. Paper dishes make after-meal clean-up a snap. If you don't go to bed with the sunset, a cordless lamp is important.

Take plenty of games, books and puzzles if you have young children. Don't let them know what you have, buy a few surprises, and ration them out daily so the kids don't get bored with everything the first day. Take a few periodicals and books for the adults, too.

If it's your first trip, get to know your neighbors. They may be veterans of the trail and able to tell you the good and bad about different types of tents and campers. There are few people who won't jump at the chance to share their knowledge.

You probably have a fairly good idea of where you want to go. All states plus the District of Columbia will send you a wealth of material on facilities available at various campsites... Write well in advance. In some states you can make reservations at parks. Some states charge camping fees. Many camp grounds allow pets. Some do not. Find out before you go.

Get the free book of camping regulations offered by each state and follow the rules. They are written by men who have spent their lives in the woods. They know the dangers of fire. They will tell you how and where you should pick a campsite to minimize unpleasantness or outright disaster in case of heavy wind or rain.

Camping is one recreational activity that an entire family can share in equally. If you're new at it you'll be astounded at the enormous effort put forth by many states and federal agencies to make your camping exciting, safe and enjoyable. They have been good to you. Be sure you and your children are good to them. When you leave your campsite it should appear as if you have never been there. Make this a game for the kids, too. They'll get into the spirit of "covering the trail". Camping out is fun, economical and gives you the opportunity of having a different vacation each year. As a family affair it brings everyone closer together. Try it once before making a big investment and keep a diary to guide you in subsequent years.

And just one more thing. Don't forget the can opener!



*(PARKS - cont. from page 25)*

Community Affairs. No development has taken place on the site; dam construction is anticipated to get underway within the year. Future use of the land will include the following facilities: outdoor education center trails, bridle paths, camping, golf course, lake, picnic areas, playfields, tennis courts, archery range and much open space.

*MAGNOLIA LAKE*

Magnolia Lake Park site is situated at the intersection of Oxford Valley Road and Lakeland Avenue in Bristol Township. This site consists of a 30 acre lake, surrounded by about 41 acres of land. At the moment this lake is off limits except for fishing on the Lakeland Avenue side. Prime facilities proposed for Magnolia Lake include keying lake toward boating activities — no motors allowed; strictly canoes, rowboats and sailboats with boat ramps available. In addition an amphitheater could be introduced with the development program and a small recreation area if the nearby community remains residential. This would incorporate basketball courts, play equipment, ballfields, etc. The high side on Oxford Valley would evolve into an overlook or pull off for observation purposes. One portion of the park also lends itself to creating a sledding hill for winter pursuits. Along with Lake Towhee, Churchville Reservoir and Silver Lake, Magnolia Lake will also host the "rain or shine" fishing contest.

*SILVER LAKE*

Silver Lake was the first park in the Mill Creek Valley System. It is the largest of the six parks (about 242 acres) and offers the greatest variety of site characteristics. This is the most urban of all parks located on the fringes of Bristol Borough and mainly in the Township on U.S. 13 and Bath Road — that area of the county which has by far the greatest density of persons per square mile. It is surrounded by heavily traveled roads, residential and commercial development.

Even though Silver Lake is only partially developed at this time, it provides another oasis of quiet green in the midst of roads and buildings. Its developed area includes open fields, picnic areas, pavilions, playground, parking, 50 acre lake, ice skating in season, boat dock and fishing. In addition to this lower end of the park, there is an outdoor education center off Bath Road at the upper end of the lake which has active summer programs comparable to the types of activities offered at Churchville. A system of nature trails, have been developed through the woods,

meadow and marshland. The center will only be operating a limited schedule this summer beginning in



*Silver Lake Pool*

June due to a budget reduction. The center telephone number is 785-1177. There is also an existing olympic-sized swimming pool with a training pool and wading pool. This facility will open Memorial Day and on weekends until mid June then follow a full seven day a week operation from 12 noon through 8 p.m. until Labor Day. The staff on duty will implement a comprehensive aquatic program to include junior and senior life saving, instructional sessions, free swim periods, water polo, swim team in the Lower Bucks League, play days and a water carnival. Individual and family plan memberships are available as well as a daily fee structure. The pool telephone number is 788-5040. Silver Lake Pool will also have picnic kits available for the public. The Department will continue to sponsor the Annual Bucks County Individual Championship Swim Meet in late August. In the area referred to as the "Nub", at the south end of Silver Lake on the other side of U.S. 13, there is an existing ballfield where another of the Home Run Derby events will be held on June 20.

Aspirations for facility development at Silver Lake include the following: expanded pool and outdoor education center, children's zoo, added picnic areas for family and groups, creative playground, expand boat dock, limited recreation center for youth and adults, and athletic fields.

*QUEEN ANNE*

Queen Anne Park is approximately 44 acres and it gets the name from a nearby creek which is a tributary of Mill Creek. The only existing facility is a ball field. This park is located in Bristol Township, west of Oxford Valley Road on Edgely Road. Primary use for a quiet park with picnic and hiking in summer and ice skating in the wintertime. Plans also call for over a mile and a half of footpaths and bike trails.



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# PANORAMA REAL ESTATE GUIDE



## DOYLESTOWN BOROUGH

Immaculate Colonial type residence with center hall, living room with wall to wall carpet, dining room, family room with brick fireplace and built in book shelves, kitchen with gas range and wall oven, laundry room, powder room. Master bedroom with bath, 3 other bedrooms and bath. Basement, gas fired hot water oil heat and attached two car garage. Aluminum storms and screens. Excellent value at \$39,000

**Robert E. Porter Real Estate, Inc.**  
72 E. State Street  
Doylestown, Pa. 348-9066



## IF YOU DISCRIMINATE . . .

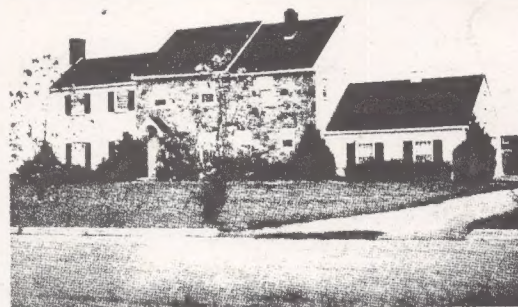
In construction, design, planning . . . then this is a home for you. The ranch style floor plan gives you plenty of elbow room plus all of the easy-living features. Covered flagstone porch, entrance hall, formal living room with raised hearth fireplace and dining room; carpeted kitchen, family room with bar and huge stone fireplace, beam ceiling and random oak floors, laundry, and powder room. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and three other large bedrooms complete the plan. Totally air-conditioned. Conveniently located near Doylestown. With over an acre of ground — professionally landscaped — this is a quality buy for \$72,500.

**J. CARROLL MOLLOY**  
30 S. Main Street Doylestown, Pa.  
348-3558



Bucks County Farm with 29 wide pastoral acres, spreading trees and meandering stream. Field stone house. Stone barn and stone fenced farm yard are grouped well back from the road just waiting to be restored. \$75,000.00.

**LOUIS FITTING**  
REALTOR  
40 BRIDGE STREET, NEW HOPE, PENNA.  
(215) 862-2291



## BETWEEN NEWTOWN AND LANGHORNE A REPLICA OF A BUCKS COUNTY FARMHOUSE CIRCA 1964

This stone and masonry custom home is the best of two worlds. Colonial charm and contemporary conveniences. Step-down liv. room with brick firepl., formal din. room, lovely kit. with eating area, library with fireplace, laundry room and powder room. 4 huge bedrooms, 2 ceramic bathrooms on 2nd floor, storage in attic. Basement, attached 2 car garage, HWO heat, beautiful condition. 1/2 of an acre well landscaped. \$52,000.

**HUGH B. EASTBURN**  
156 N. State Street  
Newtown, Pa. 18940  
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